

I want to sincerely congratulate Gary Karnopp, his wife Cynthia and their two children, Lindsey and Alyssa—and I want to recognize his contributions to San Diego County and his achievement in receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the San Diego Building & Construction Trades Council.

**BECTON DICKINSON & CO. 100TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 11, 1997*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Becton Dickinson & Co.—along with all of its employees and their families—on the 100th anniversary of the founding of this global medical technology company. Becton Dickinson is one of the largest and most important employers in my district. It is more than just a major economic force, however. It is a company whose products have saved the lives and improved the health of millions of people around the world. It is also a shining example of the proverbial good corporate citizen, playing an active role and making important contributions to all the communities in which it does business.

Becton Dickinson was founded after Maxwell W. Becton—a medical supplies salesman—and Fairleigh S. Dickinson—a stationery salesman—met on a sales trip in 1897. The two traveled together, became friends, and decided that fall to form their own company to import medical devices from Europe. The choice of medical devices as their line of business was simple—Dickinson realized that Becton's small satchel of thermometers was easier to carry than his heavy sample cases of stationery.

From those early days up to the present, Becton Dickinson has built a reputation for quality. Dissatisfied with the reliability and quality of imports, the partners soon began to manufacture their own syringes and clinical thermometers. The company quickly outgrew its New York City home and, in 1907, moved to a new factory in East Rutherford, N.J., beginning its long association with the Garden State. When World War I halted medical imports from Europe, Becton Dickinson began to set the standard for all-glass syringes.

During World War II, the company geared up for war production and produced innovative new products such as the first sterile disposable blood donor kits for the Red Cross and a new device to collect blood in glass tubes. Other Becton Dickinson innovations included machines to manufacture syringe needles automatically rather than by hand, syringes with interchangeable parts, and the ACE bandage.

Following the war, control of the company passed to the founders' sons, Fairleigh S. Dickinson Jr. and Henry P. Becton. On a personal note, I can testify to the high standards of personal character and integrity that Dick and Betty Dickinson and Henry "Hank" Becton brought to the business community and philanthropic and civic communities of northern New Jersey. Product lines were broadened and new businesses acquired as the company expanded nationally and internationally. The sons took the company public in 1962 to ob-

tain financing for huge investments in equipment to produce sterile disposable medical products as part of the "disposable revolution" in medicine.

Becton Dickinson grew rapidly, diversifying from the 1950's through the 1980's to enter many aspects of the health care industry, including diagnostics, while continuing to lead the medical device market.

Over the years, Becton Dickinson has demonstrated a strong commitment to corporate social responsibility, funding basic research and higher education, health care assistance in developing nations, and support of community based health, social service, civic and cultural organizations. Its products have played major roles in the fight to end polio and the development of crash test "dummies" to improve the safety of automobiles.

Sales for the company have grown dramatically, from \$2,639 in the first year of business to \$2.8 billion last year. Approximately 18,000 workers are employed in 80 locations in 40 countries. Research and development in 1996 amounted to \$154 million while the company made \$3.6 million in contributions to charitable organizations, not including significant product donations to disaster and humanitarian relief both in the United States and overseas.

Throughout a century of growth, Becton Dickinson's commitment to raising the quality of health care worldwide has remained constant. Its founders' passion for excellence is still reflected in the dedication and hard work of its employees. Becton Dickinson brings the miracles of modern medicine to millions of people around the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank this leading company for the contributions it has made to the world of medicine and to our community in northern New Jersey. Under the leadership of Chairman Clateo Castellini, we can rest assured that this dedication and commitment will continue. I wish Becton Dickinson many years of continued success.

**WEBSTER HOSE, HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY HONORED**

**HON. JAMES H. MALONEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 11, 1997*

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the U.S. House of Representatives to pay tribute to the outstanding and courageous service of past and present Ansonia Webster Hose, Hook and Ladder Company firefighters. Since 1897, generations of Webster volunteer firefighters have put their lives on the line, time and time again, on behalf of the Ansonia community. They've responded with only a seconds notice to save the lives of others without even contemplating the threatening dangers awaiting them. This kind of selfless and courageous work on behalf of the fellow citizens must be honored to the highest degree.

Knowing that during this anniversary year many will focus on the factual history of the Webster Hose Company, I want to honor each and every firefighter who has so generously given of his or her body and heart to the city of Ansonia. The historical collective effort by which the company was started is the best demonstration of the tremendous dedication

Ansonia residents have always had toward their community. At that time, buildings were illuminated and heated in ways that dangerously exposed families and businesses to fires. Residents wisely recognized the need for more firefighters and signed petitions actually offering themselves as volunteers for this new company. Because of the people's true commitment and dedication, the Webster Company was officially incorporated on January 7, 1897.

Since responding to their first fire on Factory Street that August with only one 550 hose cart, the company has since extinguished hundreds of fires, including the massive blaze at the Blake Bus Co. in the 1950's and the arson of the Arnold Building in 1987 and 5-7 Jewett Street in 1995. They've had tremendous success at saving people's homes, retrieving thousands of irreplaceable belongings, and most important, rescuing hundreds of Ansonia residents.

Mr. Speaker, as a State and a nation, we can truly learn a lot from past and present Webster volunteers. Their dedication and selflessness on behalf of the greater Ansonia community is symbolic of an older time, when cities and towns were more rooted and people knew their neighbors. We must learn from their example, embrace volunteerism, and in turn create stronger communities across our State and Nation.

**THE RETIREMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN STATESMAN F.W. DE KLERK AND THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF USIA'S INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM**

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 11, 1997*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, just yesterday, the South African National Party elected a successor to F.W. de Klerk, who has served for many years as the head of the party. Mr. de Klerk is the former President of South Africa. In 1990, he rejected his party's policy and his country's laws which established the vicious apartheid system, freed Nelson Mandela, and began negotiations which led to the generally peaceful transformation of South Africa from a racist society to one that is moving toward a pluralistic, multiethnic, open society. In 1993, Mr. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize—an award that was an appropriate honor to Mr. de Klerk's statesmanship, foresight, and commitment to principle.

Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Mr. de Klerk's role in the transformation of South Africa. He now retires from public life to have the time to chronicle the significant changes that he has both witnessed and helped to bring about. Mr. de Klerk gave his farewell address to the South African parliament on Tuesday, and I join his colleagues in the parliament in paying tribute to him.

Commentators around the world have reacted to Mr. de Klerk's announcement by taking note of the key role he played in ending apartheid and moving his country toward democracy. I have no doubt that change eventually would have come to South Africa, even without Mr. de Klerk's efforts; justice cannot